(b) to (d) The Committee of Secretaries have taken note of the proposals for restructuring of Air India. Government will arrive at a decision upon those proposals.

(e) Erstwhile Air India is incurring losses since 2004-05. NACIL has taken several initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company focussing on Cost Reduction and Revenue Enhancement.

(f) No financial assistance has been given to Air India by the Government.

Air services in Kerala

1226. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for changing for the operation of existing Indian Airlines flights to Air India flights from Calicut International Airport to various Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of luggage the passengers are being permitted to carry in Air India flights and in Indian Airlines flights during the Gulf journey;

(d) whether there is any facility for cancellation and refund of the ticket fare in Air India Express; and

(e) whether there would be any change in the present practice of the Indian Airlines ferrying bodies of persons who die in the Gulf countries free of cost of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to improve profitability and offer a service/fare level that best suits the market requirements, the IC coded services and those of AI Express on Calicut-Gulf routes have been restructured.

(c) The baggage Permitted to carry on NACIL flights during the Gulf journey is 20 kg. (Economy class) and 30 kg. (Business class) when tickets are issued in India. When tickets issued in Gulf, the baggage permitted is 40 kg. (Economy class) and 50 kg. (Business class) for Gulf-Calicut and 20 kg. (Economy class) and 30 kg. (Business class) for Calicut-Gulf.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

Plane crashes in the country

1227. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many senior leaders of the country have died in the plane crash;

(b) if so, the number of plane crashes in the country during the last three years; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to provide good aircrafts as well as their proper maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Some senior leaders of the country have died in plane crashes in the past. However, in the last three years out of the 16 accidents to Indian Civil Registered aircraft only one accident involved fatal injury to a senior leader.

(c) Guidelines exist in form of Aircraft Rules, Civil Aviation Requirements and Circulars for maintenance and operations to have safe aircraft operations, which are reviewed and modified from time to time as per requirement. Adherence to the guidelines is ensured during safety audits/surveillance inspection by Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

Assessment of losses of Air India

1228. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Carrier Air India has been making losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has made any assessment as to what are the causes for the continuous losses by the airlines; and

(d) the details of steps being taken to plug the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. NACIL has incurred losses since 2007-08. NACIL has taken several initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company and focussing on Cost Reduction and Revenue Enhancement. These losses have been due to low yields and load factors caused by the prevalent economic recession.

Recruitment of security personnel for airports

†1229. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India in collaboration with a private company has recruited employees for the security of aeroplanes and airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these employees are being provided the same facilities which are being extended to the staff of Air India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some employees have been sacked for their protest over not making same facilities available to them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No employee in NACIL has been recruited for the security of aeroplanes and airports.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.